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02-277  
ORIGINAL

Attn.: Michael K. Powell, Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street SW  
Washington, DC 20554

January 14, 2003

Re: FCC rule change.

Dear Mr. Powell:

I am opposed to changes in the **FCC rules** regarding media ownership. Your argument, that the Internet offers access to more information than ever, does not take into account the quality of the information or the validity of the sources. There is a lot of misinformation published on the Internet, and the owners of the **websites** are not held legally accountable for content as other media news sources are.

Diversity of ownership of media properties has provided Americans with different views on important events, and from reliable sources. Stiff competition and fewer readers have caused the closing of many newspapers in the last quarter century. This may be the motivation for media consolidation, but limiting public awareness by creating media monopolies will harm the American way of life as much as book-burning would. I have lived long enough to witness changes to cities that have lost their balance to a single newspaper and a single point of view.

Until the Internet sources become regulated and held to the same degree of accountability as newspapers, television, and radio news sources, they remain a danger to our society in their capability to misinform readers who are unable to see a difference between substantiated data and the opinions and rantings of many web authors.

Sincerely,

  
Mark Smith"

JAN 27 2003

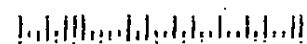
Distribution Center

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